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Stellar tweets

Teacher observes NASA launch

BY GILLIAN SMITH, EDITOR

GILLIAN@DUXBURYCLIPPER.COM

A Duxbury teacher has been selected to observe a NASA launch this week after demonstrating his skills on social media.

Matt Files, who teaches technology and robotics at Duxbury High School, has been selected to be an observer at a NASA launch at Vandenberg Air Force Base in California, which is about three hours north of Los Angeles.

Files applied to be an observer based on his social media activity. He is active on Twitter and Facebook and NASA works to include educontinued
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cators who have strong social media presences in their launches to help educate students. File applied in November and found out that he had been chosen the day before Christmas break.

"It was an early Christmas present," he said. "I've always wanted to go watch a rocket launch because I enjoy learning about the science, math and engineering behind it, so I'm really excited."

On Tuesday, Files will arrive at the launch facility at the Air Force base, where he will get to meet all of the scientists and engineers behind the launch. Nearly 30 educators will attend and will learn about the project, which will launch a satellite. They will spend Wednesday hearing from speakers, getting tours of facilities and documenting it through pictures and tweets.

On Thursday, the satellite will launch, and Files will be "live tweeting" the entire event from mission control. He will also be blogging while he is observing the launch and may even try to Skype with his class back in Duxbury to give them real-time updates. "There's a lot of educational material that we have shared with the science department that will connect with what I am doing with NASA," he said. "They are launching a weather satellite that will measure soil moisture, which fits nicely into the curriculum at the elementary and middle schools." Files said one of his goals is to gather information from scientists and engineers at NASA to bring back to share with Duxbury science classes.

Anyone who is interested in following Files' experience with NASA can follow him on Twitter [at: @DuxTechEd](https://twitter.com/DuxTechEd).